

February / March 2016 Issue

January Flood Review



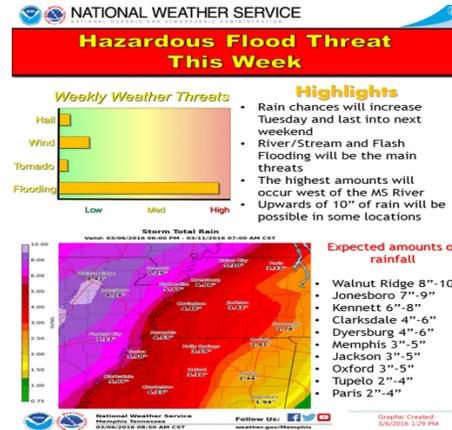
Photo Caption: Left: standing left SCOP Deputy Administrator, Levell Blanchard, right, SCOP Director Dale Lane, Right: January flooding downtown Memphis Mud Island

On February 4, 2016 the Shelby County Office of Preparedness hosted emergency officials for an “after action report” review of the January flood activation. Forecast models predicted the Mississippi River at Memphis would crest at 40.5 feet by January 8, moderate flooding, and impact 1,600 homes and businesses. SCOP Director Dale Lane said the trigger to activate was the 34 foot flood stage and predictions from the National Weather Service. SCOP staff worked with the University of Memphis GIS team to update the flood maps of 2011 and let the public know what areas could flood and when.

By January 3, the EOC activated at a Level 3, was staffed 24 hours a day, as “high water notifications” were given to 159 homes and businesses. Levell Blanchard, Deputy Administrator, presented photos of the flood waters, many of them taken by the SCOP staff and the Memphis Police Department. The photos dramatically demonstrated the flood waters creeping into yards at Harbor Town, covering parts of Benjestown Road, and impacting Second Street. Terry Donald, Shelby Cares Coordinator, thanked the American Red Cross for their help to set up shelters and an intake center in case they were needed. The Mississippi River at Memphis crested at 39.4 feet on January 8 and began its descent on January 10. The biggest variance in the 2016 flood activation versus the 2011 “flood of the century” was that mobile parks had since been moved out of their low lying areas and GIS technology was now incorporated into flood predictions.

Director Lane thanked all who supported the activation: the SCOP staff, Steve Shular, Shelby County PIO, the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office, the Memphis Office of Emergency Management, the Memphis Police Department, the Shelby County Health Department, the American Red Cross, city and county Public Works Departments, all municipal police and fire departments, the University of Memphis, the National Weather Service, the Salvation Army, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, and the Memphis Humane Society.

Heavy Rains Expected This Week



The National Weather Service in Memphis has forecast heavy rainfall this week, Tuesday night through Friday, mainly along and west of the Mississippi River. River, stream, and flash flooding are the main threats. Citizens are urged to listen to NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio for weather and flooding updates.



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA Region IV), will hold its first Preparathon this April!

This community awareness-to-action campaign will be held **April 25 - April 30th**. FEMA and Tennessee Emergency Management Agency representatives, and the Shelby County Mayor's Office (Steve Shular, PIO), presented the initiative to the multi-agency Urban Area Security Initiative meeting on January 21 at the Emergency Operations Center.

The Shelby County PrepareAthon encourages everyone to get ready for hazards and threats that can occur in Shelby County. The community partners invited to participate include schools, healthcare, city and county government agencies, major corporations, the National Weather Service, faith-based community organizations, and media partners. Each day is set aside for a specific topic of preparedness. They are:

- Monday, April 25: **Understanding Watches and Warnings**
- Tuesday, April 26: **Local Flooding Risks**
- Wednesday, April 27: **Preparing for Tornadoes**
- Thursday, April 28: **Earthquake Awareness and Response**
- Friday, April 29: **Special Needs in Disasters**

If you are interested in participating in the PrepareAthon, please call the Shelby County Office of Preparedness at 901.222.6700. More details and event information is forthcoming!

Thank you Danny Daniel!



Photo Captions: Left: Mayor Mark Luttrell thanks Danny Daniel, Right: Dale Lane and Harvey Kennedy congratulate Danny Daniel (Photos by Steve Shular, PIO)

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) honored Danny Daniel, well known Area Coordinator for the West Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. Daniel has responded to several Shelby County Emergency Operations Center activations during his decades of service as a law enforcement officer, emergency responder, and crisis coordinator. During the ceremony, Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Shelby County CAO Harvey Kennedy, and SCOP Director Dale Lane recognized Daniel's efforts as numerous first responders applauded.

Mobilizing Faith Based Organizations



Photo Captions: Left: Levell Blanchard, SCOP Deputy Administrator, right, introduces Dr. Herring, left, Right: Dr. Herring shows the FEMA manual.

On February 10, emergency managers, first responders, and representatives from faith-based community organizations gathered at the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center to attend the 8-hour FEMA seminar, "Mobilizing Faith-Based Organizations Preparing for Disaster." Dr. Maulin Chris Herring, instructor, retold the story of Noah and the Ark. He said, "Here was Noah building a big boat on dry land! Not a cloud in the sky! What? Well...you know the rest. Aren't you glad he put in the time and effort to do that? That he was obedient. It can be a challenge to convince folks to prepare ahead of time, to do something for tomorrow when today looks ok."

Throughout history, faith-based community organizations have stepped up to help...when a barn burns, a community floods, and during famine. The course explained the five phases of emergency management: prevent, protect, mitigate, respond and recover, as well as key issues needed for effective partnerships: coordination, communication, formalization, and trust. Dr. Herring gave insight as to how emergency agencies can partner with faith-based groups during their planning process before a disaster and then work as a team with them during a disaster.

SCOP Welcomes Interns



Photo Caption: Left: Alex James,
Right: Alexandria Lane

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) welcomes two new interns, Alex James and Alexandria Lane. These two interns are learning about emergency management careers as they shadow SCOP staff, attend meetings, and handle assignments from the agency. To learn more about the SCOP Intern Program or to apply, please visit www.staysafeshelby.us for an application.



Wireless emergency alerts or WEA's, are sent to cell phones and other mobile devices by authorized government agencies, such as the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, to let citizens know about extreme weather, AMBER alerts, or a Presidential alert during a national emergency. WEA's look like a text message, no more than 90 characters, with a special tone and vibration that will repeated twice. The messages are short and designed to get your attention in a critical situation.

If you receive a WEA, what should you do? Read the alert, take action, and follow instructions from the authorized agency. Then seek more details from local media.

There is no charge for the WEA. You do not have to sign up for WEA's nor download an app. Contact your mobile device provider if you are not sure if your device is WEA-capable.

Alerts received at the right time, can help you stay safe. For more information, please visit: www.fema.gov/frequently-asked-questions-wireless-emergency-alerts.

SCOP Hosts Shelby County Citizens' University



Photo Captions: Left: standing left, Kimberlyn Bouler, SCOP Planning Officer / Accreditation Manager, and, right, SCOP Director Dale Lane, entertain questions in the EOC. Right: Students view outdoor equipment

On February 25, 2016 citizens attending the Shelby County Citizens' University were welcomed to the Shelby County Emergency Operations Center at 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, to learn about the functions and duties of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP).

Students were given an overview of what hazards and threats are likely to happen here and how a citizen and the agency prepares for these potential disasters. The lecture also included why the Emergency Operations Center might be activated and which agencies would be called in to coordinate the response. Students were also given an "active shooter" awareness presentation by Director Lane.

Following the lectures, the students enjoyed an outdoor static equipment display including the Mobile Emergency Operations Center and generator, the tower lights, and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad equipment.

Hydrologic Outlook

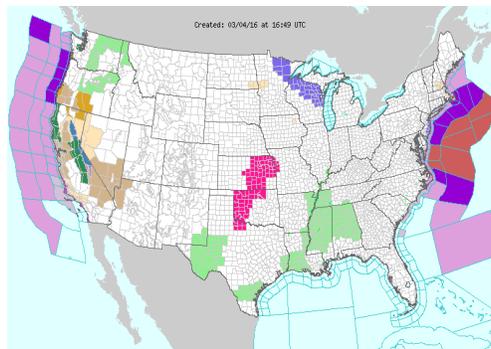


Photo Caption: NWS Hydrologic Spring Outlook

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Memphis has issued a "spring flood outlook" predicting an above normal spring flood risk for the Mid-South. Projections call for 3 to 9 inches above normal precipitation producing above normal floods on the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers and all other local rivers and streams in the Mid-South. For more information, please visit www.weather.gov.

Weather Events / Outages

National Weather Service (NWS) in Memphis Reported:

January 31: Wind Advisory

February 2: Multiple Hazards Event: Wind Advisory, Flash Flood Warning, Tornado Watch. Northbound Sycamore View closed due to flash flooding.

February 8, 9, 23, 24: Wind Advisory

February 27, 28, 29, March 1, 2, 3: Mississippi River at Memphis Flood Advisory

Memphis Light, Gas and Water Reported:

February 8: 1,100 accounts affected in Collierville

February 9: 9,000 outages, at Grandview Street and Avenue, due to a transformer fire

February 11: 3,300 outages, in Raleigh, due to a car hitting a light pole, Coleman Elementary School and Alpine School closed due to no electricity

February 23: 1,500 outages, at Winchester and Kirby, due to a car hit a light pole

March 3: 7331 outages, Whitehaven area, due to substation down.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to stay ahead of the weather, flooding, and power outages. Always have a disaster kit for home, work and auto. Keep a NOAA all-hazards radio with a battery back-up and a tone alert with you at all times. Heed the watches and warnings.

Mississippi River at Memphis



Photo Captions: Left: NWS hydrograph March 7. Right: Mississippi River at Tom Lee Park on March 6, 2016

The National Weather Service (NWS) Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service reports the Mississippi River at Memphis stage is 26.7 feet on March 7, 2016 and will drop to 25 feet on March 11. Visit www.weather.gov for the latest river stage information.

Ham Radio Check In!

All licensed "hams" are welcome to check-in to Shelby County Office of Preparedness Emergency Reserve Net (SCOPERNET), Mondays, at 6:00 p.m., on 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2. Ned Savage, Reserve, is net control. The net is also activated during weather warnings.

TDOT Signs



Photo Caption: TDOT signage I40

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) signs include safety messages, road closures, detours, and roadway fatalities. TDOT recently held a Dynamic Message Sign Contest. The top five message winners you will see in rotation in Memphis, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Nashville are: “Texting and driving? Oh cell no!”; “Exit to text it”; “It’s Tennessee, slow down and enjoy the view”; “Hey you! Yeah you! Hang up and drive!”; “Tailgating is for the game, not the road.”

Preparedness Training



Photo Caption: SCOP Director Dale Lane, presented “Active Shooter Training” to the Cordova Club Homeowners, February 18

Visit www.staysafeshelby.us to sign up for these **FREE** classes:

- **AWR 209 Working with the Media:** Short Course for Emergency Responders, March 22, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **TEEX MGT 315 Critical Asset Resource Management,** March 29 – 30, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SKYWARN Weather Spotters: March 22, 6:30 p.m., Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 6865 Poplar Pike, Memphis, TN. Email Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@gmail.com to register.

- On-line: National Weather Service: Visit: www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=onlinespottertraining
- On-line: Comet/MedEd: Visit: www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23

FEMA Independent Study: FREE self-paced courses. To register, visit: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

Run, Hide, Fight: Surviving an Active Shooter Event. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5VcSwejU2D0>

EOC Activations



Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) are at Level V, Normal Operations, as of March 7, 2016.

Volunteer with SCOP!

If you have the heart to volunteer, are interested in the area of public safety, and want to serve your community, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness is now recruiting for the following programs:

- **Reserve Program:** Reserves volunteer a minimum of 4 hours a month, attend a monthly meeting, teach CERT classes, attend community events to hand out brochures, and assist the staff during activations as needed. Please email Shelby Logan, Coordinator, at Shelby.logan@shelbycountyttn.gov or fill out an application at www.staysafeshelby.us.
- **Shelby Cares Program:** Reserves assist staff when sheltering is needed in Shelby County. Please email Terry Donald, Coordinator, at terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov or visit www.staysafeshelby.us for an application.

Preparedness Resources

Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us, 901.222.6700



SCOP@SCOP_HLS_EMA

- Shelby County Citizen Corps: email citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): email eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Shelby Cares Faith-Based Sheltering Initiative: email terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Storm Shelter Registry: email kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Shelby County Office of Preparedness Reserves: email shelby.logan@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

- Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org
- Shelby County Public Health Emergency Preparedness: www.schdresponse.com
- **American Red Cross:** www.redcross.org
- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention:** www.cdc.gov
- **Center for Earthquake Information and Research:** www.memphis.edu/ceri
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency:** www.fema.gov, www.ready.gov,
- **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA):** www.tnema.gov
- **Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW):** www.mlqw.com,
www.mlqw.com/residential/outagemap
Emergency / Outages: 901.544.6500, Downed Power Lines: 901.528.4465
- **National Weather Service:** www.weather.gov, www.weather.gov/memphis, 901.544.0399
- **United States Geological Society:** www.usgs.gov

EMERGENCY: Call 911